

their Hellenic heritage and an awareness of the contributions made to the development of democratic principles and governance in the United States and throughout the world;

Whereas AHEPA has done much throughout its history to foster American patriotism;

Whereas AHEPA has fostered patriotism by raising \$162,000,000 for United States War Bonds during World War II, for which AHEPA was named an official Issuing Agent for United States War Bonds by the United States Treasury Department, an honor that no other civic organization was able to achieve at the time;

Whereas the members of AHEPA have fostered patriotism by donating over \$400,000 collectively toward the restoration of the Statute of Liberty and Ellis Island, New York, for which AHEPA received special recognition by the Department of the Interior;

Whereas members of AHEPA and its affiliated organizations, the Daughters of Penelope, Sons of Pericles and Maids of Athena, served in the Armed Forces of the United States to protect American freedom and to preserve those democratic ideals which are part of the Hellenic legacy; and

Whereas on Monday, March 20, 2000, AHEPA is honoring the members of the AHEPA family who are veterans of service in the Armed Services by presenting those members with a special commemorative AHEPA Medal for Military Service at the 2000 AHEPA Family Biennial Banquet in Washington, District of Columbia: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Congress—

(1) joins the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) in recognizing the members of the AHEPA family whose service as members of the Armed Forces of the United States and sacrifices made in such service have contributed so much to the preservation of freedom for Americans and for so many others throughout the world; and

(2) acknowledges the honor with which that service is being commemorated by the presentation of the special commemorative AHEPA Medal for Military Service to those members at the AHEPA Family Biennial Banquet in Washington, District of Columbia, on Monday, March 20, 2000.

SENATE RESOLUTION 274—TO DESIGNATE APRIL 9, 2000, AS A “NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF SAYLER’S CREEK”

Mr. WARNER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 274

Resolved,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE 135TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF SAYLER’S CREEK.

That the Senate—

(1) designates April 9, 2000, as a “National Day of Remembrance of the 135th Anniversary of the Battle of Saylor’s Creek; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such a day of remembrance for the soldiers, the families of such soldiers and others who suffered, endured, and sacrificed during the four-year war known as the American Civil War.

SENATE RESOLUTION 275—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING FAIR ACCESS TO JAPANESE TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

S. RES. 275

Whereas the United States has a deep and sustained interest in the promotion of deregulation, competition, and regulatory reform in Japan;

Whereas new and bold measures by the Government of Japan regarding regulatory reform will help remove the regulatory and structural impediments to the effective functioning of market forces in the Japanese economy;

Whereas regulatory reform will increase the efficient allocation of resources in Japan, which is critical to returning Japan to a long-term growth path powered by domestic demand;

Whereas regulatory reform will not only improve market access for United States business and other foreign firms, but will also enhance consumer choice and economic prosperity in Japan;

Whereas a sustained recovery of the Japanese economy is vital to a sustained recovery of Asian economies;

Whereas the Japanese economy must serve as one of the main engines of growth for Asia and for the global economy;

Whereas the Governments of the United States and Japan reconfirmed the critical importance of deregulation, competition, and regulatory reform when the 2 Governments established the Enhanced Initiative on Deregulation and Competition Policy in 1997;

Whereas telecommunications is a critical sector requiring reform in Japan, where the market is hampered by a history of laws, regulations, and monopolistic practices that do not meet the needs of a competitive market;

Whereas as the result of Japan’s laws, regulations, and monopolistic practices, Japanese consumers and Japanese industry have been denied the broad benefits of innovative telecommunications services, cutting edge technology, and lower prices that competition would bring to the market;

Whereas Japan’s significant lag in developing broadband and Internet services, and Japan’s lag in the entire area of electronic commerce, is a direct result of a non-competitive telecommunications regulatory structure;

Whereas Japan’s lag in developing broadband and Internet services is evidenced by the following: (1) Japan has only 17,000,000 Internet users, while the United States has 80,000,000 Internet users; (2) Japan hosts fewer than 2,000,000 websites, while the United States hosts over 30,000,000 websites; (3) electronic commerce in Japan is valued at less than \$1,000,000,000, while in the United States electronic commerce is valued at over \$30,000,000,000; and (4) 19 percent of Japan’s schools are connected to the Internet, while in the United States 89 percent of schools are connected;

Whereas the disparity between the United States and Japan is largely caused by the failure of Japan to ensure conditions that allow for the development of competitive networks which would stimulate the use of the Internet and electronic commerce;

Whereas leading edge foreign telecommunications companies, because of their high level of technology and innovation, are the key to building the necessary telecommunications infrastructure in Japan, which will only be able to serve Japanese consumers and industry if there is a fundamental change in Japan’s regulatory approach to telecommunications; and

Whereas deregulating the monopoly power of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation would help liberate Japan’s economy and allow Japan to take full advantage of information technology: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the appropriate officials in the executive branch should implement vigorously the call for Japan to undertake a major regulatory reform in the telecommunications sector, the so-called “Telecommunications Big Bang”;

(2) a “Telecommunications Big Bang” must address fundamental legislative and regulatory issues within a strictly defined timeframe;

(3) the new telecommunications regulatory framework should put competition first in order to encourage new and innovative businesses to enter the telecommunications market in Japan;

(4) the Government of Japan should ensure that Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation (NTT) and its affiliates (the NTT Group) are prevented from using their dominant position in the wired and wireless market in an anticompetitive manner; and

(5) the Government of Japan should take credible steps to ensure that competitive carriers have reasonable, cost-based, and nondiscriminatory access to the rights-of-way, facilities, and services controlled by NTT, the NTT Group, other utilities, and the Government of Japan, including—

(A) access to interconnection at market-based rates;

(B) unrestricted access to unbundled elements of the network belonging to NTT and the NTT Group; and

(C) access to public roads for the installation of facilities.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I would like to make two sets of comments on Japan today. The first relates to Japanese telecommunications deregulation. The second involves a recently issued report about the lack of compliance by Japan with the trade agreements it has signed with the United States.

I am introducing today, along with Senator GRASSLEY, a sense-of-the-Senate resolution designed to encourage the Japanese Government to deregulate and open the Japanese telecommunications sector. Intense negotiations are going on between our government and Japanese authorities, and I hope that the Senate, by speaking out forcefully, will give support to the progressive elements in Japan as they do battle with the eternal forces of protection.

The United States has worked tirelessly to promote deregulation and openness in the Japanese telecommunications sector over the past 20 years. These efforts have led to significant changes in the procurement policies of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone, or NTT, which used to be the government